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Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Report of the Secretary-General

Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[26 May 1997]

1. The Government of Cuba has expressed its opinion regarding the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996, known as the D'Amato-Kennedy Act, ever since it was promulgated, and consequently voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 51/22 of 27 November 1996, in which the Assembly called for the immediate repeal of unilateral extraterritorial laws that imposed sanctions on companies and nationals of other States and called upon States not to recognize such measures.

2. The United States of America is once again seeking by means of the above law – and this has been rightly criticized – to extend the scope of its national legislation to third States, in this case by applying sanctions on companies or individuals from allied States that trade or invest in the oil sector of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya or the Islamic Republic of Iran with the real objective of preventing those countries from continuing to develop their oil industries.

3. The enacting of such measures reveals the true nature of the policy being pursued by countries that claim to "promote" open and free trade at the global level even as they seek unilaterally to impose their legislation on other countries, including their own allies, without any moral, legal or political justification, and in blatant disregard of the principles they themselves advocate and which are endorsed by the international community and international law.

4. The international community has also repeatedly condemned the detrimental effects of the application of such measures on the health, well-being and enjoyment of human rights

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of the population and, in particular, the most vulnerable sectors of the countries against which they are applied.

5. Cuba deeply believes that in the current international climate it is necessary to alert the international community once again to the threat posed by the proliferation of unilateral coercive economic measures, particularly those that are extraterritorial, since failure to take prompt and appropriate action to end such measures would be tantamount to acceptance of a system of international relations that favours the irresponsible hegemony and policies of one great Power.

6. The Government of Cuba, consistent in its condemnation of all extraterritorial acts that violate the sovereignty of peoples, joins in the sweeping international rejection elicited by such legislation and trusts that the United Nations will play its rightful role in ensuring that the will and the decisions of the international community are upheld.